Message Text

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UNCLAS OSLO 0561

DEPARTMENT PASS AID

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAID, NO

SUBJECT: WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

REF: STATE 020629

- 1. NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (NORAD) ARE BOTH INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO INTEGRATE WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (WID), BUT NO SINGLE PERSON(S) WITHIN GON HAS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WID EFFORT. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DETERMINES AID POLICY IN NORWAY (NORAD) IS IMPLEMENTOR, AND OFFICE IN FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH PRIME WID RESPONSIBILITY, AND FIRST POINT OF CONTACT IN THESE MATTERS, IS THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THIS DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY MR. PAL BOG.
- 2. AS AID/WASHINGTON AWARE, NORWEGIANS PLACE GREAT STRESS IN INTEGRATING WOMEN INTO DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. IN THE RECENT COMPREHENSIVE REPORT TO THE PARLIAMENT (STORTING) ON NORWAY'S ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WID WAS SINGLED OUT FOR PARTICULAR STRESS. QUOTE . . . IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT AN IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IS A FACTOR OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF A GREAT MANY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. AT FUTURE MEETINGS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES, . . . THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO WIN BROAD SUPPORT FOR THE NEED TO GET WOMEN MORE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO ENDEAVOR TO GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO THIS OBJECTIVE IN NORWAY'S BILATERAL AID ACTIVITIES. END QUOTE (OFFICIAL

TRANSLATION) THE STORTING COMMITTEE WHICH CONSIDERED THIS REPORT ALSO FIRMLY SUPPORTED THE EMPHASIS ON WID IN NORWEGIAN PROGRAMMING CALLING IT "AN ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT DUTY." (EXCERPTS OF THE COMMITTEE REPORT CAN BE TRANSLATED AND POUCHED IF AID/WID SO REQUESTS.)

3. THE STORTING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT WOMEN THEMSELVES BE INVOLVED IN ALL DECISION-MAKING AND ADVISORY ORGANIZATIONS WHICH DEAL WITH DEVELOPMENT, AND NOTED THAT NORAD HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED AN AD HOC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH WOMEN'S QUESTIONS. ALTHOUGH A NORAD OFFICIAL SERVES AS SECRETARY TO THIS COMMITTEE WHEN IT MEETS, THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DESIGNATION. ALL INQUIRIES REGARDING WID SHOULD IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BE REFERRED TO THE AFOREMENTIONED DEPARTMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ANDERS

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